

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

April 24, 1963

SUBJECT: Cuban Policy

QUESTION: What is the United States doing, unilaterally or through the OAS, to free Cuba?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

U.S. measures to isolate Castro have been catalogued frequently in speeches by Administration officials. Cited most frequently is our campaign to deny Cuba free world strategic goods and particularly free world shipping.

Recently, however, as an outgrowth of our controls on exile raiding activities, criticism has mounted that we are "protecting" Castro and the Soviets from the exiles; our statements that, notwithstanding our controls on the exile raiders, we intend to isolate Castro and end Communism in Cuba have been met with skepticism that we really mean what we say. The feeling has grown that Castro will be in Cuba for a long time to come, so long as we stick to the isolation policy.

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

We are continuing to press on all fronts -- political, economic, psychological and others -- in pursuit for our policy to isolate the regime in Cuba and to increase the burden of Cuba to the Sino-Soviet bloc.